



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/741,680	12/15/2000	Vipin Samar	OR00-14001	6541

22835 7590 01/10/2005

PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP  
508 SECOND STREET  
SUITE 201  
DAVIS, CA 95616

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CAM LINH T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/741,680

Applicant(s)

SAMAR, VIPIN

Examiner

CamLinh Nguyen

Art Unit

2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 5, 7 - 13, 15 - 21, 23 - 48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 5, 7 - 13, 15 - 21, 23 - 48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. Applicant's amendments to claims 1 – 48 are acknowledged. Consequently, claims 6, 14, 22 are canceled; claims 1 – 5, 7 – 13, 15 – 21, 23 – 48 are currently pending.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 – 5, 7 – 13, 15 – 21, 23 – 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Flaherty et al (U.S. 6,275,824) in view of Sweet et al (U.S. 2002/0031230).

♦ As per claim 1, 9, 17, 25, 30, 33, 38, 41, 46,

O'Flaherty discloses a system for control access data in a database comprising:

- "Receiving a command to perform an administrator function involving an object defined within the database system" (See Fig. 2A). The command can be made by type of users in the privileged classes (A, B, and C) (See col. 8, lines 46 – col. 9, lines 35). "An object defined within the database system" corresponds to a table or a portion of the table in the database system.
  - "Determining if the object is a sensitive object that is associated with security functions".
- O'Flaherty teaches that in order to access to the object, it must determine the sensitivity

Art Unit: 2161

level of the information (Col. 7, lines 10 - 15), and the sensitivity level of a resource is simply a value. (See also fig. 4A- 4B, Teijido).

- “The sensitive object” corresponds to “ a sensitive information portion 208” (col. 7, lines 15 in Fig. 2A,) where the “sensitive information portion 208” can include “a sensitive row contains sensitive data” see Fig. 2A.
- “ The sensitive object and only the sensitive object is encrypted in the database system” See col. 10, lines 49 – 57.
- “If the object is a sensitive object, and if the command is received from a normal system administrator, disallowing the administrative function” See col. 8, lines 46 – 61. The class A applications permits administrator performs administration functions in the data, therefore, it must check for user privileged for accessing these data (col. 8, lines 39 – 42). (See also fig. 4A- 4B, Teijido).
- “If the object is not a sensitive object, and if the command is received from an administrator who is not a security officer; allowing the administrative function to proceed” See col. 8, lines 62 – col. 9, lines 35). (See also fig. 4A- 4B, Teijido).

O’Flaherty teaches a plurality of view of different users, including the administrator view.

O’Flaherty does not clearly teach that the database system has a plurality of administrators, and at least one of the plurality of administrators is a security officer who can perform administrative functions on sensitive objects.

However, Sweet, on the other hand, discloses a security system that comprises:

- “ Plurality of administrators” page 7, paragraph 0090.
- “The sensitive object” See page 6, paragraph 0081.

Art Unit: 2161

- “Wherein at least one of the plurality of administrators is a security officer who can perform administrative functions on sensitive objects” See page 7, paragraph 0090.
- “Wherein an administrator in the plurality of administrators who is not a security officer cannot become a sensitive user and thereby obtain access to sensitive objects indirectly” See page 7, paragraph 0091. Wherein, “an administrator in the plurality of administrators who is not a security officer” can be a normal administrator in domain 125, who is responsible for the configuration and management only.
- “If the object is not a sensitive object, and if the command is received from an administrator who is not a security officer; allowing the administrative function to proceed” page 7, paragraph 0090 – 0091, 0152.
- “If the object is a sensitive object, and if the command is received from an administrator who is not a security officer, disallowing the administrative function” page 7, paragraph 0090 – 0091, 0165.

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to create different levels of administrators using the teaching of Sweet into the system of O’Flaherty rather than because the teaching of Sweet provides secure electronic access to the system; the combination would protect the database more secure by using different administrator levels.

◆ As per claim 2, 10, 18, 26, 34, 42, O’Flaherty and Sweet disclose:

- “A request to perform an operation” corresponds to “a command to perform an administrative function” See col. 8, lines 39 – 61.

◆ As per claim 3 - 5, 11 – 13, 19 – 21, 27 – 29, 35 – 37, 43 – 45, O’Flaherty and Sweet disclose:

O'Flaherty teaches that the data in a given row is encrypted with an encryption code, or by providing each data field with a unique encryption number. Clearly, the administrator must decrypt the data in order to access it.

◆ As per claim 7, 15, 23, 31, 39, 47, O'Flaherty and Sweet disclose:

- "Allowing the security officer to perform the administrative function". See col. 8, lines 39 – 61.

◆ As per claim 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, O'Flaherty and Sweet disclose:

- O'Flaherty teaches about how to protect a sensitive data stored in the database.

Therefore, the database must include a number of sensitive data items, and only specific sensitive users are allowed to access a given data item as shown in Fig. 2A, col. 8, lines 39 – 61.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 - 48 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

Art Unit: 2161

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

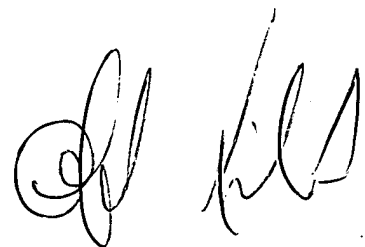
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CamLinh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4024.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alford Kindred', is positioned above the printed name.

**ALFORD KINDRED  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**